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## **Candle Fires On The Rise!**

During the past decade, while other causes for home fires have decreased, the number of fires caused by candles has **TRIPLED**. In Montgomery County, the month of January saw several major residential fires caused by candles alone!

- \*Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or going to sleep.
- \*Keep candles well away from items that can catch fire, such as flammable decorations, clothing, books, paper, curtains, etc.
- \*Make sure candles are placed on a secure piece of furniture, in sturdy holders that will not tip over.
- \*Make sure candle holders are non-combustible and big enough to collect dripping wax.
- \*Do not place lit candles in windows, where blinds or curtains can close over them.
- \* Extinguish taper and pillar candles when they get within two inches of the holder or decorative material. Extinguish votive and filled candles before the last half-inch of wax starts to melt.
- \* Don't allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.
- \*Keep candles up high, out of reach, and where they can not be knocked over by children or pets.
- \*Never leave a child unattended in a room with a candle. A child should not sleep in a room with a lit candle.
- \*Keep all matches and lighters up high and out of the sight and reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet.

### **During power outages:**

- \*Flashlights and other lights generated by batteries are much safer light sources than candles.
- \*Try to avoid carrying a lit candle and never use it to look for things.
- \*Never use a candle for light when fueling equipment such as a kerosene heater or lantern. The flame may ignite the fumes.

**Remember: A candle is an open flame. It can easily ignite any combustible nearby!**

**For Further Information:** [www.mcfrs.org](http://www.mcfrs.org)

Some of the above tips courtesy of the Nat'l Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

**“Together We Can Save Lives And Prevent Injuries”**